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Date: June 9, 2015

To: Senator Zorn, Chairperson, Senate Local Government Committee
Senate Local Government Committee Members

From: Rebecca Park, Governmental Affairs

Re: Testimony on HB 4166 (H-1)

On behalf of over 46,000 farm families, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in support of HB 4166. We appreciate the work of Representative Outman in sponsoring the bill before you today which would allow communities currently utilizing the provision of PA 88 of 1913 to continue to do so until 2020, at which point a vote of the people affected would be required.

This statute currently authorizes a county board to levy a special tax or appropriate money from the general fund for:

1. Advertising ag or industrial advantages of the state or county.
2. Collecting, preparing or maintaining an exhibition of the products and industries of the county at any domestic or foreign exposition.
3. Encouraging immigration and increasing trade in the products of Michigan.
4. Advertising the state or portion thereof for tourists

The tax is limited to 5 cents on \$100 of property value, and the board may appropriate the money to the support, work and maintenance of a legal association, development bureau or board that is a nonprofit and engaged in one of the above activities.

MFB policy asks for repeal of PA 88 of 1913 because there is currently no vote of the people required. HB 4166 (H-1) is a compromise that reaches the end goal of allowing people to vote to support programs within their local community. The enumerated purposes and objectives in the statute are laudable, and our farmer members may support those measures, but they still request the opportunity to vote to fund each measure independently.

Again, thank you for your time and considering this important piece of legislation. Farm Bureau urges your support of HB 4166 (H-1).